

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A lancing device comprising:  
a lancing mechanism having:  
a lancet carriage;  
a lancet holder slidably connected to the lancet carriage; and  
a lancet attached to the lancet holder;  
a floating probe; and  
a pressure tip for engaging a target site and creating a target site bulge;  
wherein the floating probe is adapted to floatably [contact] rest upon said target site bulge as said target site bulge is created by the pressure tip and is configured to operatively interact with the lancet carriage to control a penetration depth of the lancet into the target site bulge.
2. (Original) The lancing device of claim 1 further comprising:  
a housing;  
wherein the lancet carriage is slidably connected to the housing, the lancet holder is slidably connected to the lancet carriage and the floating probe is slidably connected to the housing.
3. (Original) The lancing device of claim 1, wherein the floating probe is formed from a rigid material.
4. (Original) The lancing device of claim 1, further comprising a launcher spring and a decoupling spring arranged in series.
5. (Original) The lancing device of claim 1, wherein the penetration depth is in the range of 0.25 to 1.5 mm.
6. (Original) The lancing device of claim 1 further comprising a stop lock assembly.
7. (Previously presented) The lancing device of claim 2, wherein the lancing mechanism further includes an over-travel spring and a launcher spring, wherein the housing

Serial No. 10/690,083

includes a floating probe spring, and wherein the floating probe spring, and launcher spring are configured to control movement and positioning of the floating probe, lancet carriage and lancet holder.

8. (Original) The lancing device of claim 1, wherein the pressure tip includes a probe stop surface.

9. (Original) The lancing device of claim 1, wherein the lancet carriage includes a lancet holder over-travel stop feature.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for lancing a target site, the method comprising:

providing a lancing device that includes:

a lancet carriage;

a lancet holder slidably connected to the lancet carriage; and

a lancet attached to the lancet holder;

a floating probe; and

a pressure tip for engaging a target site and creating a target site bulge;

wherein the floating probe is adapted to floatably [contact] rest upon said target site bulge as said target site bulge is created by the pressure tip and is configured to operatively interact with the lancet carriage to control a penetration depth of the lancet into the target site bulge;

contacting the pressure tip with the target site;

urging the pressure tip towards the target site, thereby creating the target site bulge as the floating probe is floating on a surface of the target site bulge; and

lancing the target site bulge with the lancet while the floating probe operatively interacts with the lancet carriage to control a penetration of the lancet.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the providing step provides a lancing device that further includes a stop lock assembly and wherein the lancing step lances the target site bulge while the stop lock assembly prevents movement of the floating probe.